

Now it's one of these things I know we kind of touched on this briefly when we were talking about Senator Hall's amendment on the video operated keno operations and I guess as we move forward with keno in the state where it appears like we're going to, it's a phenomena I think we need to look at as just, you know, what, at what benefit should it have to the State of Nebraska and obviously some will say, well, the state doesn't operate it, why should we have any? I guess my argument is that as Senator Johnson just mentioned with his horse racing amendment, obviously the whole area of gambling has some adverse impact on the parimutuel wagering tax we collect in Nebraska to begin with. Secondly, there are certainly other associated costs indirectly the state has to bear when you have increased gambling activity, but that really is not the purpose of the amendment. The purpose of the amendment is this, is that you know I think that the State of Nebraska, if you're going to allow this sort of gambling, and I'm certainly of the opinion that when if, indeed, LR 24 does pass, if, indeed, we move forward on the ballot, I'm sure there are going to be a large number of, not a large number, but certainly some people out there are going to say, well, if you pass the state operated lottery, it's going to harm the pickle card business, so you shouldn't do it. And I would venture to guess when the City of Omaha and the Douglas County keno operation gets up and running, they're not going to be overly wild about giving some of their business away to the state operated lottery, and I'm not certainly as expert in this activity as many members of the body are, but I think it's one of those things that, you know, I don't think a 4 percent tax and then realizing additional revenue for the State of Nebraska is something we should snub our nose at and I don't think you're... obviously the cities and the local subdivisions certainly keep much more revenue than the state does, but this, you know, if you buy the assumption that keno, if we do not, since we did not adopt the Hall amendment, if there's a \$40 million gross and 80 percent of that is a prize payout for \$32 million, you know, this probably will increase money to the state coffers about \$800,000 and, yes, that money would come out of the cities and counties take. I guess it's one of those a simple up or down type vote, but I think a 4 percent tax rate is something that would generate additional revenue to the State of Nebraska. If the state is, indeed, going to bless this like it appears we are with LB 795, I think the state has an interest to generate a share of that. I think the 4 percent makes some sense. Obviously there will be some that want to keep it all for themselves or as much as they can